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WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7, 1884.

THREE CENTS.

FIRE IN A CONVENT.

The Convent of the Immaculate Conception at Belleville Burned.

Twenty-Seven Pupils and Sisters Reported to Have Been Lost.

Some Jumped From the Windows and Roof and Were Instantly Killed.

List of Those Who Are Reported Among the Missing.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—A special to the *Inter Ocean* from Belleville, Ill., says: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic convent here was burned to the ground at an early hour this morning. Five nuns jumped from a fifth-story window. One of them was killed and the others are likely to die.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 6.—In the convent at Belleville there were sixty pupils, all girls from 10 years to adult age, several teachers, and a number of other inmates. The fire was said to have started in the rear of the third story, which was used as a dormitory. An attempt was made by the sisters to extinguish the flames, but this failing, efforts were made to save the pupils. The fire spread so rapidly that order could not be preserved, and a panic seized both the children and the sisters, all fleeing in a wild, confused rush to escape. Forty or more pupils are known to have been taken from the building and given shelter in the neighboring houses, but several, in their fright, jumped from windows and were either killed or badly injured. Miss Mary Campbell, of East St. Louis, a teacher, leaped from the third story and died in a few minutes. Another, whose name was not ascertained, climbed to the roof and was blown off, sustaining fatal injuries. Among the others injured by jumping are Daisy Eberman, who resides four miles from Belleville; Agnes Schneider and Leo Motte, of East St. Louis; Fanny Becker, of Washington, Mo.; Sister Reparat, Sister Stylla, and Sister Manassa. Sister Mary Jerome, the lady superior, and fifteen to twenty of the smaller pupils were missing at a late hour last night, and it was feared that some of them had perished in the building. Searching parties are actively at work to-day.

The scene at the fire was one of the wildest excitement and terror. The streets in the vicinity were thronged with people anxious to be of service, but owing to the rapid spread of the flames they were helpless, while the terror-stricken parents rushed frantically around searching for their missing children and weeping over their loss. The fire department was of little avail against the mad rush of burning flames, and in one hour the entire building was a mass of ruins.

The convent was known as the Institute of the Immaculate Conception, and was conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame. The fire was the most destructive to life and property that Belleville has ever experienced. A visit to the scene this morning showed the fire department still on duty, endeavoring to check the flames, so as to preserve in recognizable shape the bodies of the victims. When the ruins were sufficiently cooled a volunteer corps went to work to bring out the bodies. It was a terrible sight. At times two or three charred masses huddled close together, as if the victims had sought protection from one another from the advancing flames. Two bodies were found in the rear part of the building burned into an unrecognizable mass, but the majority were found beneath where the dormitory was situated. They seemed to have sought shelter in this room too late to recognize that it was impossible to escape from it. The flames beneath, eating away the supports, let down the floor into the seething vortex of fire and smoke.

The loss of life was much greater than estimated last night. Instead of two, as at first supposed, the total known deaths are twenty-seven—twenty-two pupils and five sisters. Among the latter is the sister superior. On the fourth floor the pupils, armed with three shotguns, took to the roof, and from there, on the second, or on the floor above the basement, which was termed orphans and half-orphans slept. The inmates on the second floor were saved.

The following is a list of the saved: Proxio Schneiderman, Miss Margaret Fitzgerald, Anna Frank, Miss Dolores, Mrs. Montgomery, and Emily Fournie. On this floor were the following candidates for the veil, who escaped: Miss Josephine, Miss Bridget, Miss Johanna, Miss Gretchen, and Miss Eliza. The missing are: Martha Naundt, of Carrollton, Mo.; Miss Barlow, of Missouri; Josephine Plouffe, daughter of County Commissioner Plouffe, of Centreville, St. Louis; Lotta Plouffe, St. Louis; Miss Velmar, St. Louis; Emma Stark, Carbondale, Ill.; Miss Sealing, Ames Sealing, St. Louis; Miss Lizzie, Carrollton, Mo.; Miss Thompson, St. Louis; Miss Marie, Columbus, Ill.; Miss Marie, Belleville; Miss Hammel, Trenton, Ill.; Emily Leonard, Trenton; Virginia Heinzelman, Belleville; Kitty Urbana, Vandalia; Gertrude Strunk, Germany; Mary Ellen, Belleville; Mary, daughter of St. Louis; Sister Scholastic, Belleville; Sister Superior Mary Jerome and Sisters Modestia, Agnola, and Edwina. Miss Bailey was a granddaughter of Col. John Thomas of this city. Sister Mary Jerome was known in the world as Barbara Hill. She was born at Fiddlers, Pa. Sister Edwina was formerly known as Bridget McElroy. She was born in Ireland, and Sister Agnola was formerly known as Margaret Shanahan. She was born in New Orleans. The fire was caused by the furnace in the basement, and when discovered the fire immediately above was abandoned, and flames of smoke were rapidly pouring through the stairways, corridors, and halls of the building. By the time the sleepers were thoroughly aroused all avenues of escape were filled with blinding smoke, a panic ensued and the scene that followed was heartrending beyond description. The extreme cold retarded the work of the firemen, and even if they could have reached the scene without delay, they could have been of little service in rescuing the victims. There were no ladders in the fire department and no provisions were made for such a deplorable emergency. The managers of the institution, the unfortunate inmates were, therefore, powerless to help themselves, and those who were witnesses of the horrible holocaust were unable to help them. The manner of escape of each of the survivors could not be learned. Sister Eberman was seen to jump from the second floor, while Miss Motte was seen jumping from a window, but was not dangerously hurt. Miss Motte was quite badly hurt; Lena Horn and Fannie Becker were seriously, but not fatally, injured. At 4 p. m. eleven bodies had been recovered from the ruins, and the efforts of the firemen and friends of the unfortunate had ceased. In identifying the following persons: Miss Verlain, Miss Strunk, Miss Manning, Miss Heinzelman, Miss Isch, and Miss Plouffe. The bodies could only be identified by portions of their clothing which had escaped the flames. All that was left of the famous convent of the Immaculate Conception is the charred, broken walls. The bodies of several of the victims are yet in the debris. The building and its contents were valued at \$25,000 to \$30,000; insurance, \$5,000.

Only the Alsatian Can Save Them.

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 6.—The monthly meeting of the Salt Lake Mormon priesthood was held yesterday. Bishop John Sharpe

TO ZERO AND BELOW.

Continuation of the Stinging Cold Weather Here and Elsewhere.

What Lieut. Powell Has to Say About the Weather.

It Will Be Warmer To-Morrow, But Another Cold Wave Is Coming.

The Range of the Thermometer in Other Localities.

The cold wave predicted by Lieut. Powell in his interview with a *REPUBLICAN* reporter, Friday night, reached this city on schedule this Saturday morning with a temperature pretty closely related to zero. The change was rather sudden, and caused "night liners" to turn in their rickety vehicles long before daylight. The patrolman, who a few hours before had snatched leisurely along over his beat was impelled to feats of pedestrianism that would have done full justice to O'Leary or Hart. Even the stray dogs that had been "noising" around the markets after bones and scraps of meat crawled under cover to avoid the freezing north wind and rapidly declining temperature. Those who had retired the night before while the temperature was lingering about the freezing point (32°) were astonished in the morning to find that Jack Frost had fantastically and grotesquely decorated the window panes with frozen lace. They were equally surprised on going out of doors to feel his icy breath, which sent them shuddering along in a lively manner, and caused their ears and noses to tingle. The icy wave continued throughout yesterday, and at an early hour this morning private thermometers about town indicated the temperature all the way from three to ten degrees below the zero mark.

A *REPUBLICAN* reporter interviewed Lieut. Powell, of the signal corps, at an early hour this morning on the outlook. "Our instruments," he said, "show that the temperature is down to zero. It will gradually go up to-day, and to-morrow will be decidedly warmer. There is a storm developing in Texas, which will probably come this way. If it does the temperature will doubtless go up to 32° above zero."

"Then the cold wave will pass on to-morrow," said the reporter.

"Yes," was the reply; "it is going to warm up considerably. However, the temperature is beginning to fall in the northwest, and another Arctic wave may follow this one."

"How is it elsewhere?"

"It is warming up all over the country. This cold wave has extended to Florida and caused considerable damage to the orange crop. We gave the growers three days' notice of its approach. However, and they may have saved much of the growing fruit. The wave which is passing over this city started last Tuesday in the northwest, where for three days the temperature ranged from 40° to 54° below zero. Some of the temperatures which preceded the wave were as follows: At Bismarck, Dak., the mercury was 18° below zero; Huron, Dak., 15° below; St. Vincent, Minn., 17° below; Moorhead, Minn., 15° below; Mount Washington, 12° below; Milwaukee, 7° below; Cairo, 5° below; Nashville, 3° below; Cleveland, 2° below; Chicago, 1° below; St. Louis, 0° below; Boston, 10° below; New Haven, 11° below; New York, 15° below; Norfolk, 15° below; Atlantic City, 13° below; Cape May, 15° below; Orleans and Savannah, 40° below; Jacksonville, 42° below. The cold wave was predicted by the signal office on Thursday, and in making the announcement very cold weather for Saturday night was indicated, with still lower temperature for Sunday night."

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Clark defended himself promptly against the vile charge, and showed conclusively that it was unfounded. He lived in this region for some time, and often walked to New York and Philadelphia to attend conventions. He believed that Ireland could never be freed by physical force, and was an ardent advocate of that doctrine. His principal possession was an old scrap-book, which he carried about with him, and in which he kept clippings of the Irish republic and newspaper clippings. He died in extreme poverty, but his last breath was a prayer for Ireland's freedom.

Col. Rathbone Will Live, But Is Injured.

HANOVER, Jan. 6.—The physicians attending Col. Rathbone are of the opinion that he will recover physically from the effects of his self-inflicted wounds, but it is believed that after his recovery it will be necessary to send him to an asylum.

Postoffice at the Town of Hingham.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6.—Three hundred socialists visited the tomb of M. Blagov and other communists, in the Pere La Chaise cemetery, to-day. A number of speeches were made, in which the speakers expressed their hope of revenge against the bourgeoisie. They also

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

A General Expression of Objection to the Personal Tax.

The movement inaugurated by THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN last week, of presenting the views of Washington merchants and others regarding a change from the system of personal tax to that of license, was followed on Saturday and yesterday by reporters of this paper.

Mr. E. D. Wright, a prominent lawyer of South Washington, said: "A personal tax, in my opinion, should never be excepted by the national government for raising revenue in time of war. Being inequitable in its nature, it is entirely objectionable to the American system of government. It should never be resorted to when more popular and adequate means of raising the revenue are at hand. From my personal knowledge it will cost more to enforce the law thoroughly, and secure returns from every person who should make returns, than any revenue system should cost a municipality. The personal tax law has never been the subject of judicial decision in this district, and I think it would cost the people and the government both as much to secure a construction of the law as it did to secure a construction of the 'statute of frauds and perjuries' when it was enacted in England. The natural result of the continuance of this law would be to limit and restrict trade, and eventually, by a reduction in the stock carried by merchants, cause capital to go to other cities where it would become a source of profit instead of a source of expense as it is under this law. It is an embargo act on trade in its operations, and should be repealed at once. If it is ever concluded to test the law fully 10,000 cases will be the subject of judicial controversy, involving incalculable expense, vexation, and annoyance."

Mr. Gustav Lamsburg, the Seventh street dry goods merchant, said: "I think the personal tax law is a humbug. A great many people creep out of paying their personal tax. I prefer a graded license. The personal tax is very unjust."

Mr. J. W. Drew, the druggist, said: "I favor license. It can be collected more easily than personal tax, which is inequitable, and hard to collect. One class will pay, another will not. I am heartily in favor of an equal license system. The personal tax law drives capital away, and I think the present congress will repeal it."

Mr. George F. Timms, the clothier, said: "I am decidedly opposed to a personal tax and in favor of a license system. The personal tax law has not a single feature to recommend it. It is inequitable and burdensome."

Col. James A. Tait, the East Washington magistrate, said: "I am heartily opposed to a personal tax. It drives capital away from our city, and is inequitable."

Mr. Thomas S. Nairn, of the drug firm of Nairn & Ogram, said: "I favor the license system for various and obvious reasons."

Mr. Joseph Wattenmeyer, a Capitol hill dealer, said: "I favor a license system, because a merchant cannot conscientiously make returns without going over his stock. Let there be an equitable license for every dealer. The police can then see if the merchants have paid up. The personal tax can easily be evaded."

Dr. C. E. Dooley, the East Washington druggist, said: "The personal tax is unjust. It is a humbug, and will drive capital away. I favor license."

Mr. John W. Thompson said: "The personal tax should be abolished."

Mr. M. W. Deal, the jeweler, said: "A majority of the business men will approve the plan devised by Commissioner West. I favor a license system."

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The members of this society and members of the Choral chorus, together with any of their friends having good voices and a fair knowledge of music, are requested to meet for rehearsal on Wednesday evening, Jan. 8, at 7:30 o'clock, at Sheldon hall, 1001 F street northwest. A full attendance is requested by the executive committee to meet and extend a cordial welcome to Dr. E. S. Kimball, the new director, and J. B. Tipton, ex-officio, of the Epiphany church, who has kindly consented to preside at the piano. The society is to be congratulated upon having these talented musicians to take charge of the rehearsals, and it is hoped it will resume the position it once held, when such distinguished artists as Messrs. Kolling, Mann, Tietz, the lamented Parpa-Rosa, and other oratorio singers took part with its members in rendering the grand oratorios of the great masters.

THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY.

At St. John's P. E. church yesterday the service for the day was in due regard for the Feast of the Epiphany. The musical programme was well arranged, and included Smart's Te Deum in F, an opening trio for male voices from Mendelssohn's "Christus," "Joy, Where is He Born, the King of the Jews," at the offertory, Leonard's "Naxos," "Kings from a Far Land Draw Near and Adore Him," barytone solo and chorus. A very large congregation was present. The sermon was appropriate for the day, being in brief a discourse upon the manifestation of the child Jesus to the Gentiles when he was three years old, and the feast of the Epiphany was celebrated with similar exercises at all the Episcopal churches in the district.

THE CONTINENTAL CADETS.

A cadet company was organized Saturday last under the title of Continental Cadets, as a branch of the Washington Continentals. They elected the following officers: Captain, H. C. Grove; first lieutenant, C. J. Hopkins; second lieutenant, C. W. Hewitt; orderly, P. Johnson; quartermaster, G. C. Hine; treasurer, Capt. W. W. Mills, of the Washington Continentals, and secretary, E. C. Kant. Application for membership can be made to the company.

SURGICAL OPERATION.

Dr. Hamilton E. Leach, the surgeon of the Washington Light Infantry, yesterday performed a surgical operation on one of the members of the corps, Mr. C. F. Leeds. The doctor was assisted by the assistant surgeon of the infantry, Dr. McArde. The operation, while painful, was a successful one.

POLICE WORK.

During the twenty-four hours ending at 8 o'clock yesterday morning the total number of arrests made by the police was fifty-three, of which number twenty-one were drunk and the remainder for misdemeanors.

A GENERAL PARADE.

On the occasion of laying the cornerstone of the Washington Light Infantry's new armory, which will be done with Masonic ceremonies, there will be a parade of the district militia.

A STORE DOOR OPEN.

The store door of Messrs. Barber & Ross, on Pennsylvania avenue, near Eleventh street northwest, was found open Saturday night by Officer Klopfer, who secured the same.

TWO CHILDREN FROZEN IN BED.

INDEPENDENCE, IOWA, Jan. 6.—A boy and girl named Hines, aged 6 and 7, were frozen to death in bed last night.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY.

Fair weather, with a cold wind shifting to northwest, Tuesday morning warmer, rising barometer in north-east portion, rising followed by falling barometer in southern portion.

Yesterday's thermometer: 7 a. m., 50°; 11 a. m., 11.9°; 3 p. m., 14.5°; 7 p. m., 11.9°; 11 p. m., 8.4°; maximum, 14.5°; minimum, 1.7°.

THE WAR IN EGYPT.

Baker Pasha's Plan of Operations Again.

The Populace of Khartoum Believe Him an Envoy from God.

Great Uneasiness in Spain—The Army Suspected of Preparing for Revolt.

The Tonquin War—Renewed Fenian Alarms in England.

THE WAR IN EGYPT.

CAIRO, Jan. 6.—Baker Pasha's plan of campaign is, in brief, for the total evacuation of the southern Sudan and the concentration of the entire available Egyptian force between Suakin and Berber. Tais will constitute his first line of defense, and Kossair and Enah will make the second line. It also includes an immediate order to the garrison at Khartoum to retire on Berber. The government here has, however, refused to sanction this last portion of the plan, and stipulates that evacuation shall not take place until definite news is received that the advance of the Mahdi is likely to result in the shutting up of the garrison.

Col. Coetlogon reports that the population of Khartoum is armed and very hostile in feeling and are acting in concert with the enemy, only awaiting a signal to attack the troops. The fidelity of the troops themselves is not assured, and the Mahdi's emissaries are active within as well as without Khartoum. It is their favorite prophecy that the Prophet will arrive in a short time. A deputation of the populace has been sent to the Egyptian governor, and have raised loud clamors against his allowing any resistance to be made to the Mahdi when he arrives, as they say he is an envoy from God.

RENEWED FENIAN ALARMS.

LONDON, Jan. 6.—There are renewed Fenian alarms in respect to the use of dynamite on the part of the officers of the Midland and other railway lines, but they have failed to create any sensation with the public. The scare has been traced to certain anonymous communications, designed merely to intimidate. The depots from London to the midland counties are being watched day and night, however.

The dynamite fiend, Whitehead, who is undergoing a penal servitude in Millbank prison, has been identified by the Birmingham detectives as James Murphy, hailing from Boston, Mass. Whitehead neither admits nor denies his identity. Dr. Gallagher, the associate of Whitehead, who is a prisoner at Chatham, is reported to make a revelation of the whole Irish-American dynamite conspiracy upon condition that he be released, or that his sentence be mitigated. Dr. Gallagher declares that he was himself victimized by his confederates. It is suspected that Dr. Gallagher and Whitehead are being induced to turn informers under a promise of release.

DUBLIN, Dec. 6.—Mr. Edward Harrington, proprietor of the *Kerry Sentinel*, who in June last was sentenced to six months' imprisonment on account of the publication in the *Sentinel* of a placard inviting persons who desired to join in the inviolables to attend a meeting, was released from the Galgo jail to-day, his term of imprisonment having expired. Bands paraded the town in his release, and Messrs. Sullivan and Harrington addressed a meeting of his friends.

THE TONQUIN WAR.

PARIS, Jan. 6.—The Tonquin situation is unchanged. The silence of Admiral Courbet causes no alarm to the French government. Premier Ferry has given his approval to a postponement of the advance on Banchin until Gen. Millot arrives at Hanoi to take command. The French continue their reconnaissance from Son-tay toward Hong-Hoa, but have met with little encouragement and no direct results, owing to the low stage of water in the canals. For the same reason it is likely that active operations will not be resumed until May.

UNEASINESS IN SPAIN.

MADRID, Jan. 6.—The rupture between the liberal factions is complete, and the country waits to see whom King Alphonso will call to power. Great uneasiness prevails. The army is suspected of preparing for revolt and for a coup d'etat. The crisis will last a few days. Even more hostile than the language of the republicans is that of the ministerial press to the monarchy.

An international tribunal for the settlement of American claims is much discussed. The United States asks \$5,000,000, and not \$10,000,000, Spain will answer with claims for thecession for Florida and the losses of Spanish subjects during the war of independence. The situation is critical for the ministry, king, and nation.

ROTI IN HUNGARY.

PESTH, Jan. 6.—A conflict took place at Isbeck to-day between peasants and farmers of crown property. Two gendarmes interfered for the purpose of restoring order and were set upon by the mob. One of the gendarmes was tomahawked in the encounter and the other shot two of the rioters.

ARRESTED FOR BIGAMY.

Trouble of a Man Who Married Two Wives.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 6.—A short time since Mrs. Maggie Harley, of New Jersey, came to this city in search of a lady, to whom she heard her husband had been married. Samuel H. Harley is a native of New York, and in 1877 was married to Maggie Howard, of New Jersey. He remained with her a year or two and then disappeared. He subsequently turned up in Baltimore and married Miss Lydia Everest at the house of her parents, soon after moving to Nottingham county, Virginia. His treatment of the last wife became so cruel that she left him and returned to her home in this city. Harley then wrote to his first wife, requesting her to go to him. To satisfy herself Mrs. Harley wrote to Virginia making inquiries as to the conduct and prospects of Harley, and the reply was that his wife had left him and gone to her home. Mrs. Harley then came to Baltimore and had an interview with Mrs. Harley No. 2, which resulted in a request to prosecute the husband for bigamy. Harley was arrested by the Virginia authorities at the request of the marshal of police of Baltimore, who asked that he be held for a requisition and arraignments were being made to send for him. To-day information was received at police headquarters that Harley has been indicted and will be tried for bigamy under the laws of Virginia. Both wives have gone to Virginia and are now in the possession of the store and other property of Harley. His trial is appointed for the eighth instant.

A Railroad Collision.

HURON, DAK., Jan. 6.—Near Vera station yesterday a passenger and a freight train collided, demolishing both engines and setting fire to the freight train. The passenger train was saved by cutting it loose from the burning wreck. One man was killed on the freight train. None of the passengers were hurt. The passengers had to remain in the cars all night, with the temperature 39° below zero.

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"Yes," was the reply; "it is going to warm up considerably. However, the temperature is beginning to fall in the northwest, and another Arctic wave may follow this one."

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HANOVER, Jan. 6.—The physicians attending Col. Rathbone are of the opinion that he will recover physically from the effects of his self-inflicted wounds, but it is believed that after his recovery it will be necessary to send him to an asylum.

Postoffice at the Town of Hingham.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6.—Three hundred socialists visited the tomb of M. Blagov and other communists, in the Pere La Chaise cemetery, to-day. A number of speeches were made, in which the speakers expressed their hope of revenge against the bourgeoisie. They also

THE LICENSE QUESTION.

A General Expression of Objection to the Personal Tax.

The movement inaugurated by THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN last week, of presenting the views of Washington merchants and others regarding a change from the system of personal tax to that of license, was followed on Saturday and yesterday by reporters of this paper.

Mr. E. D. Wright, a prominent lawyer of South Washington, said: "A personal tax, in my opinion, should never be excepted by the national government for raising revenue in time of war. Being inequitable in its nature, it is entirely objectionable to the American system of government. It should never be resorted to when more popular and adequate means of raising the revenue are at hand. From my personal knowledge it will cost more to enforce the law thoroughly, and secure returns from every person who should make returns, than any revenue system should cost a municipality. The personal tax law has never been the subject of judicial decision in this district, and I think it would cost the people and the government both as much to secure a construction of the law as it did to secure a construction of the 'statute of frauds and perjuries' when it was enacted in England